

UNITED ASSOCIATION

of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada

UA Local Union: Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 777

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RE: HB 5037

An Act Adjusting the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2023 Department of Labor Agency Budget

Appropriations Committee **Public Hearing**

February 16, 2022

Chairwoman Osten, Chairwoman Walker, Ranking Member Miner, Ranking Member France, and members of the Appropriations Committee,

Local 777 Plumbers and Pipefitters is part of a coalition seeking to ensure that all our schools have adequate and properly maintained HVAC systems for the health and wellbeing of employees and students.

We appreciate that Governor Lamont's budget proposal includes funding in the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for indoor air quality in schools. However, the Governor's budget does not provide funding to provide oversight by ConnOSHA to ensure school heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are designed, installed, and maintained by properly trained and certified professionals.

Oversight by ConnOSHA within the Department of Labor (DOL) is instrumental to overseeing standards for inspection, maintenance, repair, and installation of HVAC systems, and to ensure work is done by the most qualified licensed HVAC contractors.

We are, therefore, requesting that the Appropriations Committee provide funding to the DOL budget for staff support withing ConnOSHA for responding to workplace safety reports relating to schools' indoor air quality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Plumbers & Pipefitters, Local 777